IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and 17-31 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims.

32. (NEW) A method of preparing a cancer vaccine, comprising:

(a) contacting a neoplastic cell population with a first marker,

(b) contacting an antigen presenting cell population with a second marker,

(c) contacting said neoplastic cell population and said antigen presenting cell populations with one another under conditions that promote cell fusion,

(d) purifying the resultant hybrid cell population by cell sorting, and

(e) resuspending the resultant hybrid cell population in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle;

wherein said cell sorting does not involve antibiotic or metabolic selection and the diversity of the starting cell populations is preserved in the resultant hybrid cell population.

33. (NEW) A method of preparing a formulation for treating a disorder associated with a pathogenic organism, comprising:

(a) contacting a population of cells infected with or isolated from a pathogenic organism with a first marker,

(b) contacting an antigen presenting cell population with a second marker,

(c) contacting said affected cells and said antigen presenting cells with one another under conditions that promote cell fusion,

(d) purifying the resultant hybrid cell population by cell sorting, and

(e) resuspending the resultant hybrid cell population in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle;

wherein said cell sorting does not involve antibiotic or metabolic selection and the diversity of the starting cell populations is preserved in the resultant hybrid cell population.

34. (NEW) A method of preparing a formulation for tolerizing an immune system against a target cell, comprising:

(a) contacting a population of target cells with a first marker,

(b) contacting a population of antigen presenting cells lacking an accessory molecule with a second marker,

(c) contacting said target cells and said antigen presenting cells deficient in an accessory interaction with one another under conditions that promote cell fusion,

(d) purifying the resultant hybrid cell population by cell sorting, and

(e) resuspending the resultant hybrid cell population in a pharmaceutically acceptable buffer;

wherein said cell sorting does not involve antibiotic or metabolic selection and the diversity of the starting cell populations is preserved in the resultant hybrid cell population.

35. (NEW) The method of claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein the resultant cell population contains less than 10% of its total population as reactant cells.

36. (NEW) The method of claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein the resultant cell population contains less than 5% of its total population as reactant cells.

37. (NEW) The method of claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein said marker is a dye.

38. (NEW) The method of claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein said cell sorting is fluorescence activated cell sorting.

39. (NEW) The method of claim 34, wherein said antigen presenting cells are immature B cells or fibroblasts.

40. (NEW) The method of claim 34, wherein said antigen presenting cells lack B7.

41. (NEW) The method of claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle is normal saline.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 34, wherein said method is used for treatment of an autoimmune disease.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 33, wherein said population of cells in (a) is isolated from a pathogenic organism.

44. (NEW) A method of preparing a tumor vaccine, comprising:

(a) contacting a tumor cell population with a first dye,

(b) contacting a dendritic cell population with a second dye,

(c) contacting said tumor cell population and said dendritic cell population with one another under conditions that promote cell fusion,

(d) purifying the resultant hybrid cell population by cell sorting, and

(e) resuspending the resultant hybrid cell population in a pharmaceutically acceptable buffer;

wherein said cell sorting does not involve antibiotic or metabolic selection, the resultant cell population contains less than 5% reactant cells, and diversity of the starting cell populations is preserved in the resultant hybrid cell population.

REMARKS

Interview

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Li and Wehbe for their time and insights during an interview with Applicants' representatives on March 27, 2003. During the interview, potential claim amendments for overcoming the rejections of record were discussed.

Status of the Claims

By this amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-31 are canceled and claims 32-44 are added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 32-44 will be pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent divisional applications. The cancellation of claims does not constitute acquiescence in the propriety of any rejection set forth by the Examiner.

Exemplary support for newly added claims 32-44 is provided in the specification as shown below.